

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /052 W

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R 291550Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, XH

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON IMPROVED BALKAN
ATMOSPHERE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS ISSUED STATEMENT OCTOBER 26
CALLING ATTENTION TO "VERY WARM ATMOSPHERE" CREATED BETWEEN
GREECE AND HER BALKAN NEIGHBORS AFTER CHANGE OF REGIME HERE.
BITSIOS ALSO SAID RECENT EXPRESSION OF GOODWILL TOWARD
GREECE BY ALBANIAN LEADER HOXHA "HAD BEEN DULY APPRECIATED."

2. ACCORDING TO SIMILAR ACCOUNTS IN SUNDAY'S GREEK PRESS
CITING RELIABLE SOURCES, THERE WILL BE MANY EXCHANGES OF
OFFICIAL VISITS WITHIN FRAME WORK OF IMPROVED GREEK RELATIONS
WITH THE BALKAN COUNTRIES. VISITS TO TAKE PLACE AFTER
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN GREECE. PRESS REPORTS THAT
GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER IS TO VISIT SOFIA, AND YUGOSLAV
DEPUTY PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER WILL VISIT ATHENS.

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT RPT NOT READ ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN
THESE PRONOUNCEMENTS ON BALKAN FRIENDSHIP MORE PROFOUND
THAN GREECE'S NEED TO GAIN SUPPORT ON CYPRUS ISSUE IN
UNITED NATIONS AND CARAMANLIS' NEED TO DEPRIVE HIS
OPPONENTS OF ISSUES IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS.

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